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N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF :

Administrative Action

LETICIA CAMEJO, RN License # 26NR10921900 FINAL ORDER
OF DISCIPLINE

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (the "Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Leticia Camejo ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
- 2. On or about April 24, 2013, Respondent completed and submitted an online biennial renewal application which asked whether Respondent would have "completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2013," referring to the biennial

renewal period of June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2013. Respondent answered "Yes" and certified that answer by submitting the online application.

- 3. Upon receipt of information indicating that Respondent was arrested on October 21, 2014 by the Monroe Township Police Department for violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1A(1) Assault); N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1B(5)(A) (Assault on Police); and $\underline{\text{N.J.S.A.}}$ 2C-29-2A(1) (Resisting Arrest), the Board sent a letter of inquiry requesting certain information and documents regarding the criminal matter, Respondent's nursing practice, and continuing education to Respondent's address of record in Monroe, New Jersey, via regular and certified mail on or about October 31, 2014. The regular mailing was not returned and the receipt for the certified mailing was signed upon delivery on November 5, 2014.
- 4. Respondent partially replied six months later, on April 28, 2015, by providing copies of the Complaints from the October 21, 2014 arrest, information about her employment, and a narrative of the conduct which led to her arrest. Although Respondent maintained that she had pled guilty to a downgraded charge and paid a fine, she failed to provide a copy of the court disposition, proof of payment of any fines or completion of any sentence, a performance evaluation from her job, nor any

documentation of continuing education completed from 2011 to the present. Regarding continuing education, Respondent indicated that she "will be completing the required continuing education courses in May 2015." The Board received no further information from Respondent.

5. On or about April 24, 2015, Respondent completed and submitted an online biennial renewal application which asked whether Respondent would have "completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2015," referring to the biennial renewal period of June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2015. Respondent was also asked whether she completed the required one hour course on Organ and Tissue Donation. Respondent answered "Yes" to both questions and certified the answers by submitting the online application.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failure to fully respond to the Board's request for information constitutes a failure to cooperate with a Board investigation, in contravention of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2 and 1.3, which the Board deems professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and also subjects Respondent to disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b), nurses are required to complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours of continuing education

during the preceding biennial period in order to renew their licenses. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(f), nurses are required to maintain documentation of completion of continuing education for a period of four years after completion, and shall submit such documentation to the Board upon request.

By virtue of having failed to fully respond to the letter of inquiry, Respondent is deemed to have failed to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, that Respondent completed the continuing education credits required for renewal during the biennial period of June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2013. The Board therefore finds Respondent in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b) and 13:37-5.3(f), which in turn subjects Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's use of dishonesty and misrepresentation during the license renewal process in falsifying her continuing education information constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), subjecting Respondent to sanctions.

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on June 23, 2015, provisionally suspending respondent's nursing license and imposing a reprimand and a total of \$750 in civil penalties. A copy of the Order was served upon respondent by certified and regular mail at her address of record. The Provisional Order was

subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order. Ms. Camejo apologized for her failure to fully respond to the Board's earlier inquiry. She provided all the information and had been requested with respect to the documentation that arrest, and documented completion of a total of sixty (60) contact hours of nursing continuing education in June and July of 2015, all of which is deemed applicable to the 2011-2013 and 2013-2015 licensing cycles, and thus satisfies her continuing education obligation for those cycles. The Board determined that although suspension was no longer appropriate, as Ms. Camejo had submitted all requested documentation and information, reprimand for misrepresentation on the 2013 and 2015 renewal applications, indicating that she would have completed all required continuing education by May 31, 2013 and May 31, 2015 respectively, was warranted. Similarly, the \$500 civil penalty

for Ms. Camejo's initial failure to cooperate with the Board's investigation, and the \$250 penalty for failure to comply with N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, by not timely completing continuing education, were also warranted. It was noted that Ms. Camejo's failure to respond to the Board in a complete and timely manner led to unnecessary delay and the unnecessary waste of Board resources: and that the Board should not be required to issue an order to obtain information and documentation from its licensees.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this $23^{1/4}$ day of $\frac{\text{November}}{\text{November}}$, 2015, ORDERED:

- 1. A reprimand is imposed on Respondent for falsifying the continuing education information on her license renewal application.
- 2. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750). Said penalty is an aggregate penalty, which includes a penalty in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) for failure to cooperate with a Board investigation and a penalty in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for failing to timely complete required continuing education. Payment shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card

payment delivered or mailed to Leslie Burgos, Board Staff, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment shall be rejected and shall be returned to the party making the payment. Payment shall be made no later than fifteen (15) days after the date of filing of this order. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

- 3. The sixty (60) contact hours of continuing education, completed in June and July of 2015, and used to remedy previous deficiencies, may not be utilized to satisfy respondent's continuing education obligation for the 2015-2017 licensing cycle.
- 4. The Board reserves the right to initiate disciplinary proceedings based upon any information that Respondent ultimately provides in response to the letter of inquiry or upon any new information the Board receives, if it deems such action appropriate.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Patrice Mughy PLD APN

By:

Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN

President